



THE OUTPOST

Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, Tampa Fl.

In Service to America

**NATIONAL CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2001, FLORIDA STATE COUNCIL,
CHAPTER OF THE YEAR 2000, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005
FOR INFORMATION CALL (813) 597-1326, FAX: (813) 737-4929.
WEB SITE: MEMBERS.AOL.COM/VVA787/INDEX.HTML**



Chapter Annual Meeting

By Tom Hall, Nomination Chair

On **April 27, 2006**, Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787 will conduct its Annual Membership meeting at 7:30 p.m. at the Brandon Veterans Hall located at 115 W. Clay in Brandon, FL. The purpose of this meeting is the election of Chapter Officers and Board of Directors and any changes to the Chapter By-laws.



Any Chapter member in good standing may run for any elected position in the Chapter. Those members wishing to running for any elected office should send a "Letter of Intent" by mail to the Chapter post office box address or by e-mail to marinedi@aol.com stating which position they wish to run. All candidates **MUST** provide a copy of their DD-214 prior to the election to the Nominating Chair. Candidates, who are nominated from the floor prior to the election, must provide a copy of their DD-214 at that time.



The election process and campaign restrictions for office will be in strict accordance with the VVA Constitution.

This article is published to provide the required notice to the membership in accordance with the VVA Constitution. If you have any questions, please contact Tom Hall, Nominating Chair, at 655-7129.

V.V.A. Chapter 787, meeting held on January 26th, showing off our new Chapter of the Year Plaque.

Back row L-R: Herman Rainey, Board Member Ron Schott, Richard Nye, Chapter VP Dale Wagner, Robert Har-die, the lovely Elaine Harris.

Front row L-R: The lovely Beverly Wagner, chapter Treasurer and State Council Delegate Kevin Ruhl, chapter Secretary Bob Silmser and **Chapter Member of the Year Carl Harris.**

Chapter President Jim (Rambo) La-Garde could not attend this meeting but he was a big part of our winning this year.



Chapter Officers

President: Jim LaGarde
Vice President: Dale Wagner
Secretary: Bob Silmser
Treasurer: Kevin Ruhl

Board of Directors:

Ron Schott
Carl Harris
Tom Hall
Jon Mueller

State Council Delegate:

Kevin Ruhl

OUTPOST Publisher & Editor: Jon Mueller, E-mail: JonMue@aol.com

Meetings

Chapter Meetings are held the 4th Thursday of each month.

Time: 7:00 PM

Location: Brandon Veterans Hall, 115 W. Clay Brandon Fl. 33510. See Map on last page. **Mail-ing address: P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404**

TAPS



Chapter Secretary, Bob Silmser, was notified that chapter member **Richard Harden Hogan Jr.** of 1804 Lakeview Drive, Brandon passed away on December 15th 2005.

According to chapter records, Richard was a U.S. Navy veteran with over 25 years of service. He had the following decorations, China Service Medal, WWII Victory Medal, Korean Service Medal w/4 Oak Leafs, and the Vietnam Service Medal w/2 Oak Leafs.



Vietnam service dates listed were 4-Nov-1968 to



31-July-1974.

No Honor Rifles for Non-Vets

Army Times, January 23d..... Veterans groups across the country are struggling to man gun squads that often accompany veterans' funerals rites and fire volleys of a salute. About 1800 vets die every day.

The problem is a little known federal statute that bars the Army from giving ceremonial M1 rifles to honor guards with non-veteran members. Many groups like the VFW, American Legion, and VVA sometimes supplement their honor guards with son's and daughters of veterans. Some even have their own organization like the Sons of the American Legion.

Army officials said the rule is necessary. "These veterans, they know how to handle a military-issue weapon." said Ed Wolverton, chief of the Army donations program at Tank-automotive and Armaments Command in Warren Mich.

"The sons are often younger folks; they're teenagers sometimes. They've maybe not been trained properly on these weapons—but the vets have been.

Many veterans groups around the country didn't know about the statute and said they regularly augment their honor guards with non-vets.

V.V.A. Chapter 787 T-shirts for sale, very cool!

Chapter T-Shirts

\$15.00 for size Large & X-Large, 4 in stock now.

\$17.00 for size XX-Large 5 in stock now.

We can mail the shirts to your home for an additional \$4.00,

Or pick them up at the next chapter meeting, and save the \$4.00.

Contact Bob Silmser by e-mail: rafkirk64@verizon.net or phone: 813-685-3483, to order, or if you have questions.



3-1/2" Iron on Patches are \$5.00



Do you have a family member currently serving in the US Military. We want to hear about them. Please send their name, rank, branch of service, duty station, etc., to Jon Mueller. E-mail: JonMue@aol.com. Please include pictures.

Chapter 2006 Fund Raisers

SCHEDULED FUND RAISERS

MARK your calendar.

Your help is needed this year.

February 3rd-4th Publix--- Causeway Blvd, Brandon 8am-4pm

March 3rd-4th Wal-Mart--- Bloomingdale & Bell Shoals, Brandon 8am-4pm

Mar 31st-Apr 1st Publix--Lithia Pinecrest & Bloomingdale, Valrico 8am-4pm

May 5th-6th Publix--Bloomingdale & Providence Road, Riverview 8am-4pm

June 2nd-3rd Publix---Bloomingdale & Bell Shoals, Brandon 8am-4pm

More Fund Raisers are trying to be scheduled for the 2nd half of the year.

We hope to be able to do the Home Show in Tampa again and possibly the one at the Fair Grounds. Nothing has been finalized as of yet but we will keep you informed on our progress. If your name is on our Call List for Fund Raisers you will be called if you wish to be placed on that list to help us raise money for our projects contact **Bob Silmser at 813-685-3483.**

Disaster Relief Program for 2006: Amount unknown at this time

80 Holiday Meals at Thanksgiving \$19.00 ea \$1520.00

70 Holiday Meals at Christmas \$19.00 ea \$1330.00

Plus other projects that happen thru-out the year without prior notice

We are also trying to bring the Wall back to this area in 2007 and need to raise money to fund that project.

This Month during the War in Vietnam

February 7-8 1965 - "I've had enough of this," President Johnson tells his National Security advisors. He then approves Operation Flaming Dart, the bombing of a North Vietnamese army camp near Dong Hoi by U.S. Navy jets from the carrier *Ranger*.



February 22, 1965 - General Westmoreland requests two battalions of U.S. Marines to protect the American air base at Da Nang from 6000 Viet Cong massed in the vicinity. The President approves his request, despite the "grave reservations" of Ambassador Taylor in Vietnam who warns that America may be about to repeat the same mistakes made by the French in sending ever-increasing numbers of soldiers into the Asian forests and jungles of a "hostile foreign country" where friend and foe are indistinguishable.



February 22, 1967, 845 Paratroopers of the 173d Airborne Brigade, made the first and only combat parachute jump of the Vietnam War. This was Operation Junction City and a massive force of 45,000 Americans were attacking the NVA and VC from the east. The drop zone was just 2 clicks from the Cambodian boarder and the Paratroops were used to block escaping enemy units so that they could not reach their safe areas (west) across the boarder. 23 C-130's were used, 13 for personnel and 10 for heavy equipment. All the 2nd battalions 105mm howitzers heavy (4.2') mortars, 1/4, 3/4 ton trucks, and over 2400 105mm rounds were dropped, all within 30 minutes. It was quite a shock to the enemy.



February 26, 1968, During Tet, a Communist force which eventually reached 12,000 invaded the South Vietnamese city of Hue. It stayed for 26 days and then was driven out by US Marines and the ARVN's 1st Div.



In the wake of this Tet offensive, 5,800 Hue civilians were dead or missing. The bodies of most have since been found in single and mass graves throughout Thua Thien Province which surrounds this cultural capital of Vietnam .

The first discovery of Communist victims came in the Gia Hoi High School yard, on February 26.

In the next few months 18 additional grave sites were found.

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

Quote

"The bullet is a mad thing.....only the bayonet knows what it is about."

Field Marshall Prince Aleksandr V. Suvorov.....The Science of Victory 1796



VA Secretary Appoints New Veterans' Liaison

WASHINGTON (January, 11, 2006) – The Honorable R. James Nicholson, Secretary of Veterans Affairs, recently appointed Kevin B. Secor, of Woodbridge, Va., as his senior advisor on issues relating to major veterans groups.

"I'm grateful that Kevin was willing to take on this assignment and continue his long and distinguished service to our nation, its military personnel and its veterans," Nicholson said.

In his new role as special assistant to the Secretary, Secor will serve as the primary liaison between the department and veterans organizations, informing veterans groups about VA's efforts on their behalf while communicating the concerns of the veterans groups to Secretary Nicholson.



Secor, a native of Schodack, N.Y., retired from the Marine Corps as a master gunnery sergeant, having served 29 years. His last active-duty post was as a military assistant and senior enlisted Marine with the Joint Chiefs of Staff at the Pentagon.

His assignments included tours as a Marine security guard in Nigeria and Germany, as a recruiter in New Hampshire and as a member of the Inspector General's staff in Syracuse, N.Y.

Secor also served as military secretary to the commander, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic, and to the commander-in-chief of the U.S. Southern Command.

Membership

Vietnam Veterans of America

Send to: VVA Chapter 787, P.O. Box 89247,
Tampa Fl. 33689-0404

Name: _____ Male: _____

Female: _____ Date of Birth: _____

Address: _____ Apt. # _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone: _____ Work or Cell Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Chapter #787 Sponsor _____ ID _____

Membership Type:

Individual 1 year _____ \$20 3 years _____ \$50

Individual membership is open to all Vietnam Veterans who served on active duty for other than training purposes from 1/1/1959 to 5/7/1975. Individual members must submit a copy of their DD-214 with their application and payment.

Associate 1 year _____ \$20 3 years _____ \$50

Life Member \$250, payment plan, \$50 down, and 8 monthly installments of \$25.

Payment Method: Check _____ Money Order _____ Visa _____ MasterCard _____

If using a credit card: Card # _____



Submitted By: Daniel Cullen

POW-MIA

New Documentary on Texas Vietnam MIA to Air 2/9/06 on Military Channel

To everyone interested in the successful recovery of USMC Lieutenant Matocha's remains, missing in action in Vietnam for three decades, to his family in central Texas.

The recovery operation is documented in a film entitled "An Ocean Away" created and produced by the husband and wife team of Pat and Cheryl Fries who also created the documentary "In the Shadow of the Blade".

"An Ocean Away" will premier on the Military Channel on Thursday, February 9th at 7:00 Central Time. Details follow and are also attached for hard copy distribution.

John A Miterko

VVA Texas State Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE (DATE)

CONTACTS:

Arrowhead Films

Cheryl Fries

512-328-0099

cfries@arrowheadfilms.com

Military Channel

Barbara Cvrkel

240-662-2928

Barbara_Cvrkel@discovery.com



AWARD-WINNING DOCUMENTARY FILMMAKER REVISITS THE VIETNAM WAR: The Military Channel and Patrick Fries Team Up for Journey of Healing To "An Ocean Away."

AUSTIN, TX: Documentary filmmaker Patrick Fries, whose idea to fly a restored UH-1 "Huey" helicopter to Vietnam veterans became the award-winning film "In The Shadow of The Blade," has revisited the Vietnam War--this time on the battlefield.

Fries' new Vietnam War documentary, "An Ocean Away," will debut on The Military Channel Thursday, February 9th at 8:00 ET. "An Ocean Away" follows the return of U.S. Marine Donald Matocha's remains, missing for three decades, to his Central Texas family, and the subsequent journey of his sisters to the battlefield in Vietnam where he died.

Accompanied by Marine veterans from Matocha's patrol and the helicopter pilot who rescued them, Loretta Matocha Eiben and Linda Matocha Masur retraced the steps of the Marine reconnaissance patrol known as "Team Dallas Girl" to the top of Dong Ma Mountain near the former DMZ. This was a miracle for our family, Linda Masur said.

Donald Matocha was killed in action on Dong Ma Mountain on April 5, 1968. A North Vietnamese soldier, Nguyen Van Loc, buried the American and, three decades later, led the United States Joint POW/MIA Accounting Command to the site. The film includes a gripping and emotional battlefield meeting between Van Loc and Matocha's sisters and Marine comrades. "An Ocean Away" also documents the repatriation of LT Matocha's remains from the laboratory in Hawaii where the remains of missing American military personnel are analyzed, identified and prepared for return.

Continued on next page.....

POW-MIA continued from page 6.....

"Once again, Patrick Fries captures Vietnam veterans and families with sensitivity and accuracy. This is an incredible story of healing," said Don Dorsey, a former Marine who is now president of the Texas Association of Vietnam Veterans and previewed "An Ocean Away."

Director Patrick Fries and his wife and business partner Cheryl became interested in Vietnam War stories while directing the cross-country exodus of Huey helicopter "091" for "In The Shadow of The Blade," a journey that landed the aircraft and film clips in the Smithsonian Museum of American History and earned awards from the film industry and veteran groups. The Fries' production company, Arrowhead Film & Video, is in production of other Vietnam War documentaries, with anticipated completion in 2006 of "A Touch of Home: The Story of Vietnam's Red Cross Girls" and "Dust-off Heroes: The Air Ambulance Legacy."

The Military Channel goes behind the to bring viewers compelling, real-world stories of heroism, military strategy, technological breakthroughs and turning points in history. The networks slate of series and specials are designed to take viewers behind the lines to tell the personal stories of servicemen and women and offer in-depth explorations of military technology, battlefield strategy, aviation and history.

The Military Channel also provides access to military personnel and hardware, allowing viewers to experience and understand a world full of human drama, courage, innovation and long-held traditions.

For more information, including to view the trailer, visit

www.arrowheadfilms.com and military.discovery.com.

To receive updates, join the e-list at www.intheshadowoftheblade.com.

To read news, watch <http://intheshadowoftheblade.blogspot.com>

Video's and DVD's Needed

Submitted By: Tom Hall

Used or new videos and DVDs movies are needed for the Land O' Lakes Veteran's Nursing Home. They have the means to view either format but their library is slim to none with no funds available to purchase.

If you have any old video or DVD movies you'd like to donate to Chapter 787 please bring them to the Chapter meeting or contact **Tom Hall at 655-7129**. NO WAR Movies, please.

We need to help our veterans NOW!

Tom Hall



This newsletter is not the official publication of the Vietnam Veterans of America, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida. All opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views and opinions of Chapter 787, the VVA State Council, the VVA National or the Chapter members.

You can receive a copy of the OUTPOST each month at no cost. Contact Jon Mueller via e-mail at JonMue@aol.com and provide your e-mail address. You will need to have an Adobe Acrobat Reader on your PC to open the newsletter. You can also receive it by US mail. The cost is \$12 per year. Make your check payable to V.V.A. Chapter 787 and mail it to P.O. Box 89247, Tampa Fl. 33689-0404. Make sure you identify the payment for the OUTPOST.

THE UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL

Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, between 7th and 9th Streets, Washington, D.C.
Mailing Address: 701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 123, Washington, D.C. 20004-2608
Telephone: (202) 737-2300 Fax: (202) 737-2308
Website: E-mail: ahoy@lonesailor.org

January 10, 2006

Contact: David J. Michael Jr. Immediate Release
Director, Navy Log (202) 380-2300 ext. 730 navylog@lonesailor.org

Navy Log Offered Free To Sea Service Members, Veterans



WASHINGTON, D.C. – The United States Navy Memorial, located on Pennsylvania Avenue, in Washington, D.C., is a national memorial that honors those who served, and are serving, in America’s Sea Services – Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine.

The focus of the U.S. Navy Memorial is not a particular type of ship, battle or conflict, but rather the *individual* whose service and sacrifice is honored and celebrated. The heart of the U.S. Navy Memorial is the **Navy Log**.

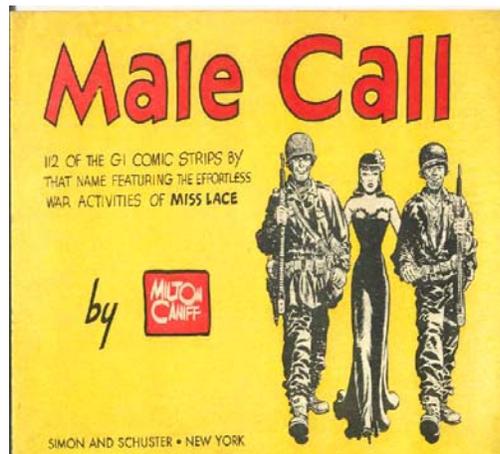
The *Navy Log* is the permanent public registry where Sea Service members and veterans can record their service information – name, duty stations, awards, photos and memories. The *Navy Log* may be viewed at the U.S. Navy Memorial, or via the Internet at www.lonesailor.org. The goal of the Memorial is to record the service history of all eligible uniformed individuals and veterans.

Now through the end of July 2006, all members and veterans of the Sea Services – active duty and reservists – are able to enroll in the U.S. Navy Memorial’s *Navy Log* without charge and without any obligation. Family members and friends can record service information for veterans who are deceased or those who are unable to record their own information.

To enroll your information or to enroll family members simply enter the appropriate information at www.lonesailor.org. If you have any questions, please contact the *Navy Log* Department of the U.S. Navy Memorial, at 1-800-NAVY LOG (1-800-628-9564).



"When I get married I'm going to be the sergeant!"



SIMON AND SCHUSTER • NEW YORK



"I asked the supply sergeant for my correct size and all I got was hysterical-wild laughter!"

Calendar of Events

<u>Date</u>	<u>Day</u>	<u>Event and Location</u>	<u>Time</u>
<u>February 2006</u>			
3rd & 4th	Friday & Saturday	Fund Raiser, Publix, Causway Blvd. Brandon	8 AM to 4PM
16th	Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's house	6:30PM
23rd	Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Veterans Hall, Brandon	7:30 PM
<u>March 2006</u>			
3rd & 4th	Friday & Saturday	Fund Raiser, Publix, Bloomingdale & Bell Shoals, Brandon	8AM to 4PM
9th	Thursday	Board of Directors Meeting, Jon's House	6:30PM
23rd	Thursday	Chapter Meeting, Veterans Hall, Brandon	7:30PM
31st & 1st	Friday & Saturday	Fund Raiser, Publix, Lithia Pinecrest & Bloomingdale, Valrico	8AM to 4PM

Medical

Submitted By: Jon Mueller

January 16, 2006

Pill could erase PTSD memories**By Marilynn Marchione***Associated Press*

Suppose you could erase bad memories from your mind. Suppose, as in a recent movie, your brain could be wiped clean of sad and traumatic thoughts.

That is science fiction. But real-world scientists are working on the next best thing. They have been testing a pill that, when given after a traumatic event like rape, may make the resulting memories less painful and intense.

Will it work? It is too soon to say. Still, it is not far-fetched to think that this drug someday might be passed out along with blankets and food at emergency shelters after disasters like the tsunami or Hurricane Katrina.

Psychiatrist Hilary Klein could have offered it to the man she treated at a St. Louis shelter over the Labor Day weekend. He had fled New Orleans and was so distraught over not knowing where his sisters were that others had to tell Klein his story.

"This man could not even give his name, he was in such distress. All he could do was cry," she said.

Such people often develop post-traumatic stress disorder, or PTSD, a problem first recognized in Vietnam War veterans. Only 14 percent to 24 percent of trauma victims experience long-term PTSD, but sufferers have flashbacks and physical symptoms that make them feel as if they are reliving the trauma years after it occurred.

Scientists think it happens because the brain goes haywire during and right after a strongly emotional event, pouring out stress hormones that help store these memories in a different way than normal ones are preserved.

Taking a drug to tamp down these chemicals might blunt memory formation and prevent PTSD, they theorize.

Some doctors have an even more ambitious goal: trying to cure PTSD. They are deliberately triggering very old bad memories and then giving the pill to deep-six them.

The first study to test this approach on 19 longtime PTSD sufferers has provided early encouraging results, Canadian and Harvard University researchers report.

"We figure we need to test about 10 more people until we've got solid evidence." said Alain Brunet, a psychologist at McGill University in Montreal who is leading the study.

Submitted By: Ron Schott

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TAPS**My Lai hero Hugh Thompson Jr. dies at 62**

By JESSICA BUJOL
Associated Press Writer



NEW ORLEANS (AP) -- Hugh Thompson Jr., a former Army helicopter pilot honored for rescuing Vietnamese civilians from his fellow GIs during the My Lai massacre, died early Friday. He was 62.

Thompson, whose role in the 1968 massacre did not become widely known until decades later, died at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Alexandria, hospital spokesman Jay DeWorth said.

Trent Angers, Thompson's biographer and family friend, said Thompson died of cancer.

"These people were looking at me for help and there was no way I could turn my back on them," Thompson recalled in a 1998 Associated Press interview.

Early in the morning of March 16, 1968, Thompson, door-gunner Lawrence Colburn and crew chief Glenn Andreotta came upon U.S. ground troops killing Vietnamese civilians in and around the village of My Lai.

They landed the helicopter in the line of fire between American troops and fleeing Vietnamese civilians and pointed their own guns at the U.S. soldiers to prevent more killings.

Colburn and Andreotta had provided cover for Thompson as he went forward to confront the leader of the U.S. forces. Thompson later coaxed civilians out of a bunker so they could be evacuated, and then landed his helicopter again to pick up a wounded child they transported to a hospital. Their efforts led to the cease-fire order at My Lai.

In 1998, the Army honored the three men with the prestigious Soldier's Medal, the highest award for bravery not involving conflict with an enemy. It was a posthumous award for Andreotta, who had been killed in battle three weeks after My Lai.

"It was the ability to do the right thing even at the risk of their personal safety that guided these soldiers to do what they did," Army Maj. Gen. Michael Ackerman said at the 1998 ceremony. The three "set the standard for all soldiers to follow."

Lt. William L. Calley, a platoon leader, was convicted and sentenced to life imprisonment for his role in the killings, but served just three years under house arrest when then-President Nixon reduced his sentence.

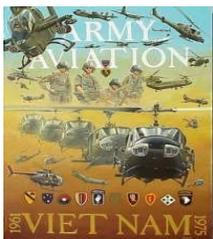
Author Seymour Hersh won the 1970 Pulitzer Prize for his expose of the massacre in 1969 while working as a freelance journalist. The massacre became one of the pivotal events as opposition to the war was growing in the United States.

Hersh called Thompson "one of the good guys."

"You can't imagine what courage it took to do what he did," Hersh said.

Although Thompson's story was a significant part of Hersh's reports, and Thompson testified before Congress, his role in ending My Lai wasn't widely known until the late 1980s, when David Egan, a professor emeritus at Clemson University, saw an interview in a documentary and launched a letter-writing campaign that eventually led to the awarding of the medals in 1998.

"He was the guy who by his heroic actions gave a morality and dignity to the American military effort," Tulane history professor Douglas Brinkley said.



For years Thompson suffered snubs and worse from those who considered him unpatriotic. He recalled a congressman angrily saying that Thompson himself was the only serviceman who should be punished because of My Lai.

As the years passed, Thompson became an example for future generations of soldiers, said Col. Tom Kolditz, head of the U.S. Military Academy's behavioral sciences and leadership department. Thompson went to West Point once a year to give a lecture on his experience.

Submitted By: Ron Schott



Air Commandos

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US Air Force Special Operations in Southeast Asia. The first detachment was to Bien Hoa, South Vietnam, an air base about thirty miles northeast of Saigon. Code-named Operation Farmgate, it was Detachment Two of the 4400th Combat Crew Training Squadron headquartered at Eglin AF Aux #9, Hurlburt Field, Florida.

Detachment One, code named Sandy Beach, had been deployed earlier to Mali, Africa.



The Air Commando legacy started in April 1961 when AF Chief of Staff GEN Curtis Lemay created the 4400th CCTS under the command of COL Benjamin King at Hurlburt Field. Known as Operation Jungle Jim, the initial all volunteer components consisted of 124 officers, mostly pilots, and 228 enlisted personnel. The first aircraft were the C-47, B-26 and T-28.

The Air Commando Association website states: "The C-47s were configured for cargo drops; the B-26s included the two place model to facilitate transition training and; the T-28s were modified to carry .50 caliber machine guns, 2.75 rockets, a small quantity of bombs, and armor plating. The concept called for all aircraft to operate from minimal condition, tactical airstrips and C-47s and T-28s from sod runways. The Jungle Jim mission, organization and equipment closely paralleled its WWII counterparts, the 5318th Provisional Air Unit and the 1st Air Commando Group. The new squadron mission involved individual and unit training and potential combat-strike, reconnaissance, and air-lift."

Training was arduous and just five months after its inception the 4400th passed its first Operational Readiness Inspection. Their motto was, "The mission of the Air Force is to fly and fight."

Two months later, November 1961, Headquarters Pacific Air Force Operations Plan #222-61 called for Det 2 or East Bum F*, as it was called at Hurlburt, to be on its way. Operation Farmgate consisted of 41 officers and 115 airmen assigned a 179 day temporary duty station. The aircraft assignment was four C-47's ferried from Hurlburt. Military Air Transport Service (MATS) airlifted eight T-28's. Detachment personnel picked up four B-26's from storage in Taiwan flew them to Okinawa for battle modification and then delivered them to Bien Hoa. The mission was to train the South Vietnamese Air Force. In addition Det 2 would also operate an air control facility for all Air Force activities in Southeast Asia that were not assigned to the Military Assistance Advisory Group. In December LTCOL Robert Gleason replaced COL King as the commander and history began to note the achievements of the USAF Special Operations.

Before long, Commando pilots were primarily flying combat missions as the "pilot in command" with almost any available South Vietnamese airman in a passenger seat to fulfill the training requirement.

Corrections

In the January OUTPOST we incorrectly called Ken Leland, Kevin. Here he is again. Ken Leland awarded "Best Speaker" by Bloomingdale High School Teacher., John Eames

The OUTPOST editor has done 25 pushups as penance.



THE OUTPOST

Help Your Chapter Grow

Bring a New Member to the Next Chapter Meeting.

Come and Join Us. Give us your Ideas.

Chapter meetings are held at the Brandon Veterans Hall. 115 W. Clay Ave, Brandon Fl. See map below.

Contact E-mail Addresses:

President Jim LaGarde:

cLaGarde@tampabay.rr.com

VP Dale Wagner: g.gator2@verizon.net

Secretary Bob Silmser: rafkirk64@verizon.net

Treasurer Kevin Ruhl: MSgtMCRet@aol.com

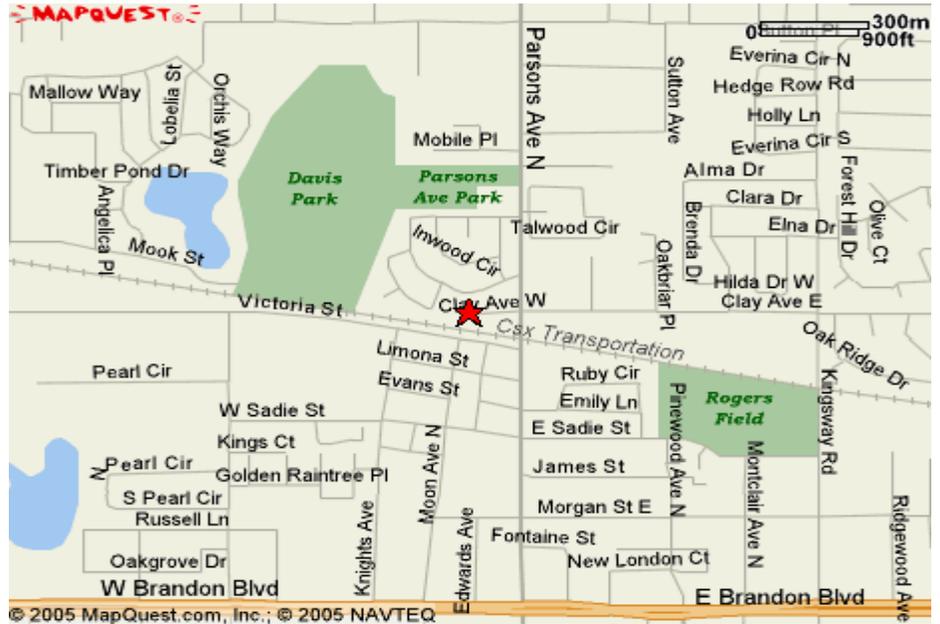
Board of Directors

Ron Schott: RonD1120@aol.com

Tom Hall: MarineDI@aol.com

Carl Harris: c_e_harris@ij.net

Jon Mueller: JonMue@aol.com



Important Web Sites

- Vietnam Veterans of American, Chapter 787, Tampa Bay Florida..... <http://members.aol.com/vva787/>
- Vietnam War Statistics.....<http://my.eiis.net/cmart/vietwarstats.html>
- Vietnam, Yesterday & Today.....<http://servercc.oakton.edu/~wittman/chronol.htm>
- Vietnam Veterans Legacy Foundation.....www.vvlf.org
- National League of Families of American POW's/MIA's.....www.pow-miafamilies.org
- V.V.A. National Office on the World Wide Web.....www.vva.org
- U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs.....www.va.gov
- OPM Veterans Hiring Preference.....www.opm.gov/veterans
- Uniformed Services Family Health Plan (USFHP).....www.usfhp.com
- U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.....www.vetapp.uscourts.gov
- Children of Vietnam Vets.....www.geocities.com/pentagon/9125
- The Center for Women Veterans.....www.va.gov/womenvet
- Vietnam Women Memorial Foundation, Inc (formerly "Project").....www.vietnamwomensmemorial.org
- The Moving Wall—Vietnam Combat Veterans LTD.....www.themovingwall.org
- The Virtual Wall.....www.virtualwall.org
- Get a Copy of your DD-214 on-line.....<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/evetrecs/index.html>